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a time when they know my sister to be absent from England."

To the first assertion conveyed in this paragraph the Committee beg leave to demur. Madame Clara Novello in her professional capacity is a public character, and the public have a right to know the reasons why any public singer of eminence attainable has not a place in the list of vocalists engaged for the Birmingham Musical Festival. To the second, the Committee have only to present an unqualified denial, as they were perfectly ignorant that she was absent from this country until so informed by Mr. Novello in his letter.

Mr. Novello then refers to the disappointment of the Birmingham people on not hearing "their favourite," and objects to the terms offered his sister as not being possible for her to accept because they were the same as paid her "when a girl." To the first point the Committee reply that Mr. Novello's reference is, in accordance with the whole tenor of his letter, not only injudicious, but presuming. To the second, the Committee answer, that Madame Novello in 1852 accepted the terms she did as Miss Novello in 1843.

The Committee repeat, notwithstanding Mr. Novello's assertions, that those were and are "liberal terms;" and it must be manifest to all reflecting minds that they have nothing to do with the sums the Committees of other Festivals think proper to pay to singers. As regards the Committee trying "by their representations to divert public blame from themselves," they can only say that they have published "facts," and not "misrepresentations," as Mr. Novello in a prior clause of his letter asserts; and that, so far from being blameable, they consider themselves entitled to the thanks of the friends of the General Hospital, for the benefit of which Institution the Festivals are held, for not yielding to the demand of Madame Novello.

Finally, in answer to Mr. Novello's "protest," the Committee maintain their right to deal with this question publicly; and if Mr. Novello should again circulate reflections on the Committee of the Birmingham Musical Festival, they will, in self-defence, be under the necessity of forthwith printing the whole of the correspondence between themselves and Madame Novello, when the public will form their own estimate of the decision of the Committee in refusing to engage Madame Novello on the terms proposed by her for their acceptance.

By order of the Festival Committee,
HENRY HOWELL, Secretary.

[In compliance with the Committee's request, we publish the above correspondence, and commend their term "reply," as it is certainly no *answer* to Mr. Novello's letter. He does not impugn the discretion exercised by the Committee in the engagements made; and if the Committee thought the public would be equally satisfied with their choice, they needed not have justified this choice, by reflecting on a singer whose services they had declined.]

We have made the suggested reference to the programme, and find that Mr. Novello's assertion is perfectly correct; for of the 13 principal vocalists engaged, 10 are foreigners and 3 English—the latter being a contralto, a tenor, and a bass: consequently there is no English soprano engaged.—*Ed. Mus. Times.*]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

This Journal is published on the 1st of every month.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

Brief Chronicle of the last Fortnight.

MANCHESTER.—PRIZE GLEES SINGING AT THE BELLE-VUE GARDENS.—The race of men who flourish in the counties which gave to the world the opposing war cries of York and Lancaster, and deluged the country in blood during the civil wars of the red and white roses, now amicably unite in a contest of a bloodless and civilizing character. It has remained for Manchester—foremost in all efforts of a humanizing tendency—to develop this new era in the march of competition. On the 27th June there was a large and respectable attendance at the Belle-Vue Gardens, to hear the prize glee singing. Mr. Jennison, the director of the gardens, had offered three prizes for the best performance of choral harmony; the first prize being £10, the second prize £5, and the third, £2. To contest for these honorary distinctions, the following associations had come into the field:—*The Church Musical Institute*, Idle, Yorkshire; alto, J. Popplewell; 1st tenor, Edward Lee; 2nd tenor, Edwin Scott; bass, Thomas Lee.—*The Burnley Glee Club*, Burnley; alto, John Jackson; 1st tenor, Christopher Slater; 2nd tenor, Matthew Watson; baritone, Joseph Comstive; bass, William Holgate.—*Gibbs's Pottery Glee Club*, Etruria, Staffordshire; alto, George Barker; 1st tenor, John Adams; 2nd tenor, Joseph Latimer; baritone, John Brown; bass, Thomas Gibbs.—*Airedale Musical Institute*, Bradford, Yorkshire; alto, Benjamin Briggs; 1st tenor, Benjamin Wade; 2nd tenor, Peter Pickles; baritone, John Yates; bass, John Bramley. The following was the award of the judges, and we understand that not only was it unanimous on their part, but it gave great satisfaction to the audience:—

First prize, £10, to Gibbs's Pottery Glee Party.

Second Prize, £5, to the Airedale Musical Institute.

Third Prize, £2, to the Church Musical Institute, Idle, Yorkshire.

The judges were Mr. J. Waddington, Mr. Walton, and Mr. Edmondson, of Manchester.

MANCHESTER.—A contest of a similar kind, took place on the 24th July, between what are called clarinet bands; when the undermentioned six bands entered to compete for the following prizes:—First, £15 and a French ebony clarinet; Second, £4; Third, £2 10s. The competitors were:—Wortley, near Manchester, Temperance, leader, T. Goodier, 14 performers; Walmsley's, Finmill, Fails-worth, leader, S. Lees, 18 performers; Halifax, Yorkshire, Talbot, leader, J. Widdop, 20 performers; Newchurch, Lancashire, Whitewall Bottom, leader, P. H. Nuttall, 14 performers; Riddlerden, near Keighley, Yorkshire, leader, J. Midgley, 15 performers; Burnley, Lancashire, Mechanics' Institute, leader, J. Finney, 24 performers; New Hall Lane, Preston, Lancashire, leader, J. Greenhalgh, 15 performers; and King's Cross, Halifax, Yorkshire, leader, J. Soothill, 20 performers. In September, a trial of skill, by brass bands, is proposed.

TONBRIDGE.—The Church organ has been rebuilt by Messrs. Gray and Davison. It was opened July 22nd, by Mr. Gilbert. The following anthems were sung by a choir of nearly 30 voices:—"In Jewry" (Clarke); "In that day" (Gilbert); "Blessed be Thou" (Kent).

MELTON MOWBRAY.—The first Concert was given in the new room, at the Corn Exchange, on 12th July; the vocalists being Mrs. Sunderland, Mr. R. Paget, Messrs. Oldersham, Bithrey, and Thomas. The Duke of Rutland's private band, with Mr. Shelmerdine at the pianoforte, were the instrumentalists; with a conductor, Mr. H. Nicholson. This concert proved a good inauguration of the room, which was highly praised by the performers for its exceeding suitability for musical purposes, and Melton may be congratulated on possessing so good a public gathering place.

AMERICA.—PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, U.S.—The Musical Institute recently performed the oratorio, *The Messiah*, before an auditory of about 1500 persons. The choruses were admirably performed, and the soloists, who were all resident amateurs, did themselves great credit, the band rendering efficient service throughout. The production of this great work is mainly due to the indefatigable exertions of their director, Mr. W. F. Marshall. The society have in preparation, for next winter, the oratorio of *The Creation*, by Haydn.

HEREFORD MUSICAL FESTIVAL.—"Most sincerely do we trust that the great exertions which have been, and which still are used, may be successful, and that so noble a charity may derive the liberal support it deserves. It is impossible not to rejoice at the immense attraction we have in the oratorios, compared with Birmingham; all will admit that Clara Novello is vastly superior to any singer in the world for sacred music: we have nothing to do with the reason why she is not employed at Birmingham, it is sufficient to know that she is engaged here. The steady progress of the Festivals of the three choirs is most cheering; the success at Gloucester and Worcester will, we hope, be followed at Hereford, and the losses of the stewards be a thing of the past. We are glad to find the excellence of the programme has been favorably noticed by the press generally. On the first morning we have two new works—Mr. Townsend Smith's *Jubilate*, and Mendelssohn's 98th Psalm. The *Hymn of Praise* is also a novelty here; and the revival of Spohr's exquisite composition, *The Christian's Prayer*, deserves praise. The selection, as a whole, is of the most popular character we ever remember. At the Shirehall, great improvements have been made as regards ventilation; the advantage of retiring-rooms for the performers and an enlarged orchestra have also been secured."—*Hereford Journal*.

SCARBOROUGH.—On the 11th of July, two very interesting concerts were given by Mr. R. Turner, resident organist, assisted by Miss Wilson, Messrs. Hird, Hudson, and Plowman.

BROMLEY, (KENT.)—Vocal classes, numbering about eighty, have been established here, by Mr. W. C. Filby, resident organist.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Signor Verdi arrived in London at the end of last week, accompanied by Madame Verdi, Monsieur Ricordi, of Milan, and Monsieur Escudier, of Paris. The celebrated composer has visited all the sights of London during the week, and on Thursday paid a visit to the Crystal Palace. He appeared greatly delighted with the magnificent building and grounds, and expressed his astonishment and pleasure in the most rapturous terms to those who accompanied him. Herr Schallehn having learned that the Italian *maestro* was present, paid him a graceful compliment, in performing a selection from his latest operas, *Il Trovatore* and *Luisa Miller*. This little attention was duly appreciated by Signor Verdi, who complimented Herr Schallehn on the efficiency of his band.

MILAN.—The opera-house of La Scala, formerly so popular, and the other royal theatres, are likely to be closed for some time to come; since the only tenders made to the authorities by managers, require a considerable augmentation of the subsidy paid by the state.

LONDON EISTEDDFOD.—The prize of five guineas offered at this Welsh musical congress, for the best music to the words of the Magnificat in Welsh, has been awarded to Mr. John Owen (Owen Alaw), of Chester. This makes the third successive Eisteddfod at which Mr. Owen has been successful.

OBITUARY.—We have to record the death of Mr. John Robinson, of York, who for many years was a much respected teacher of music in that city. His valuable library, old violins, and other musical curiosities, will now be dispersed; and what portions are not secured by the county families, will be disposed of, by auction, in London.

DURING THE LAST MONTH,

Published by J. A. NOVELLO.

GREENE, DR.—Like as the hart. Duet Anthem for two Trebles. Single voice parts, 10½d.

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BEMBRIDGE'S PSALMODY.—A Collection of Single and Double Chants, Psalm and Hymn Tunes, &c., suitable for public or private devotion; selected from the old masters, with several original tunes composed expressly for this work. The whole arranged for four voices, with an accompaniment for the organ or pianoforte, by S. BEMBRIDGE. 21s.

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MOZART'S *Splendete te Deus*, or, O God, when thou appearest. Orchestral Wind parts, 4s. 8d.

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3	I will always give thanks. Verse, 4 v.	1	6
4	Lord, what love have I. Verse, s.s.	0	9
5	O Lord, thy word endureth for ever. Verse, T.	0	9
6	It is a good thing to give thanks. Verse, 4 v.	2	0
7	The Lord is my shepherd. Verse, 4 v.	1	0
8	O give thanks unto the Lord. Verse, 4 v.	1	6
9	And lo! I beheld the dead. Verse, 4 v.	1	3
10	Let my complaint. Verse, s.s.	0	9
11	Have mercy upon me, O God. Verse, 4 v.	1	0
12	O be joyful in God. Verse, 4 v.	2	6
13	O God, who hast prepared. Full, 4 v.	0	6
14	I will give thanks. Full, 4 v.	0	6
15	Almighty and everlasting God. Full, 4 v.	0	6

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6	O praise God in his holiness. Verse, S.A.T.B.	2 0	1 0
7	The Lord's Prayer. Full, S.A.T.B.	1 0	
8	Wherewithal shall a young man. V. s.s.	1 6	1 4½
9	I am the resurrection (<i>funeral</i>) V. S.A.T.B.	1 9	0 7½
10	Sing unto the Lord Verse, S.A.T.B.	2 6	1 6
	God save the King (Handel)		